

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

*talk to General
Carter*

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY

14 AUG 1964

Dear Mr. McCone:

As you know, I am in the process of reviewing both General Greer's and SSD's R&D efforts that are aimed at making our satellites less vulnerable to detection and/or attack.

To analyze these programs in a proper context, I need to be up-dated on the Intelligence Community's thinking with regard to the Soviet anti-satellite threat. In that vein, it would be appreciated if your people could give me an informal appraisal of the future situation as they see it.

Specially, I desire estimates of the possible and probable Soviet anti-satellite technical/operational capabilities in mid-1965 and by mid-1968. No written report is required; a reasonably comprehensive briefing will suffice.

If at all possible, I should like to hear this briefing in early September.

Sincerely,

Brockway McMillan

Brockway McMillan
Director

(S) National Reconnaissance Office

Honorable John A. McCone
Director of Central Intelligence

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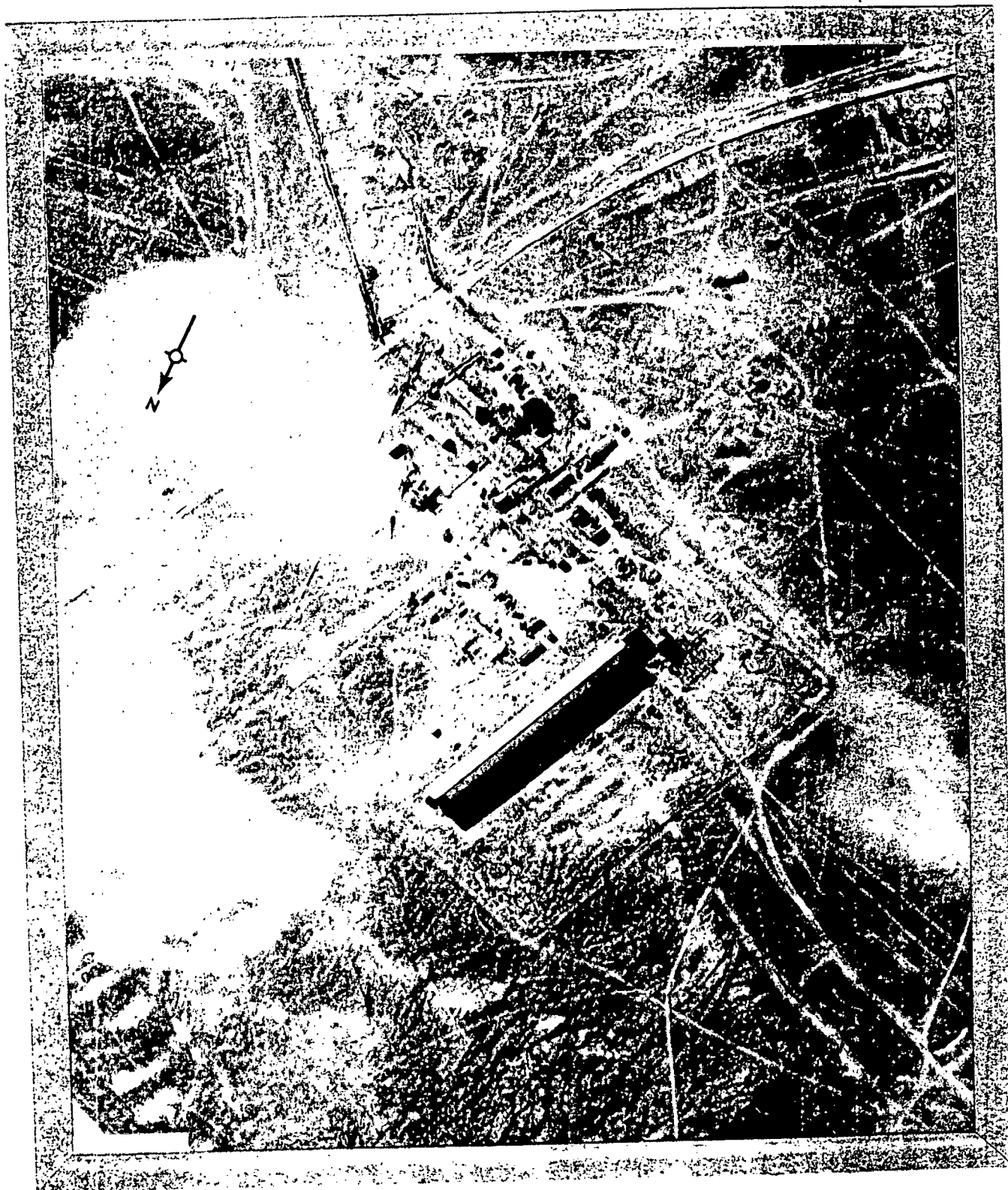
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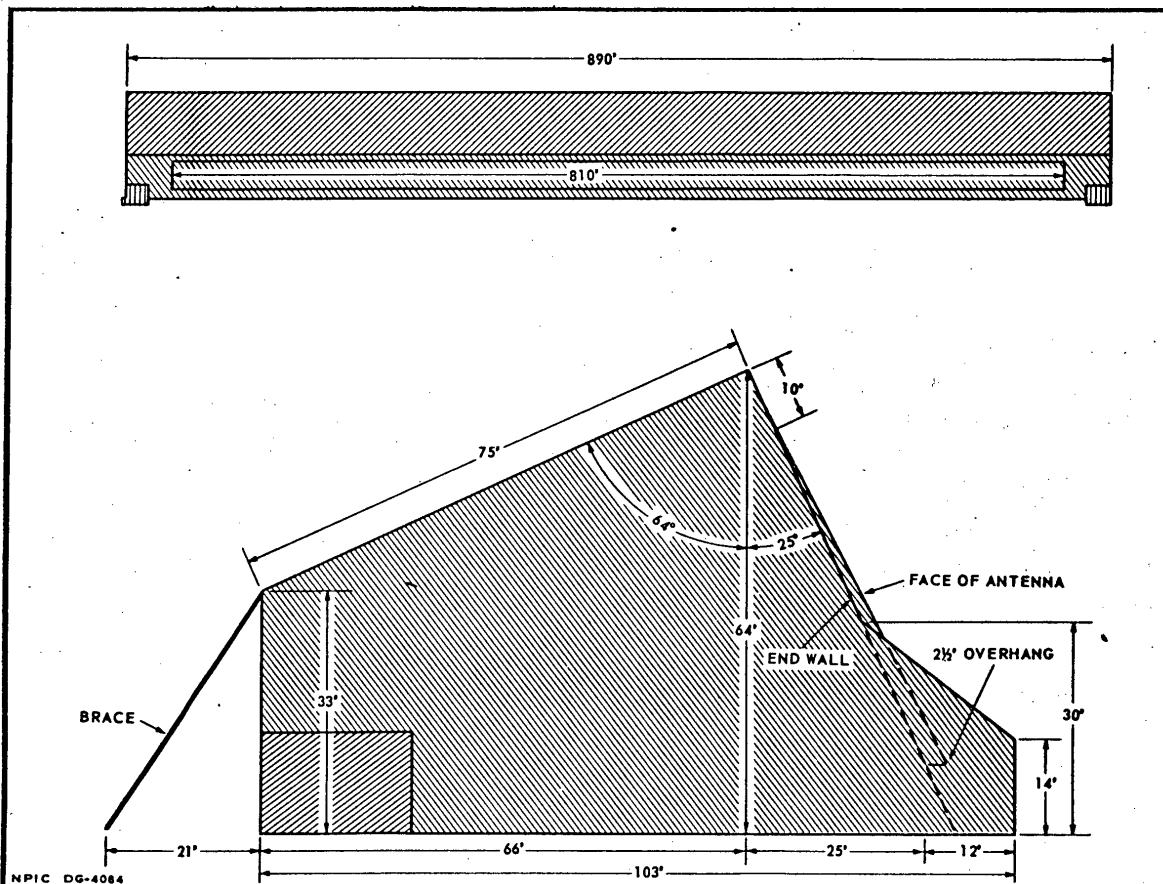
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Sary Shagan Missile Test Center: Original HEN HOUSE (April 1960).

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Sary Shagan Missile Test Center: Plan and Elevation Views of Original HENHOUSE

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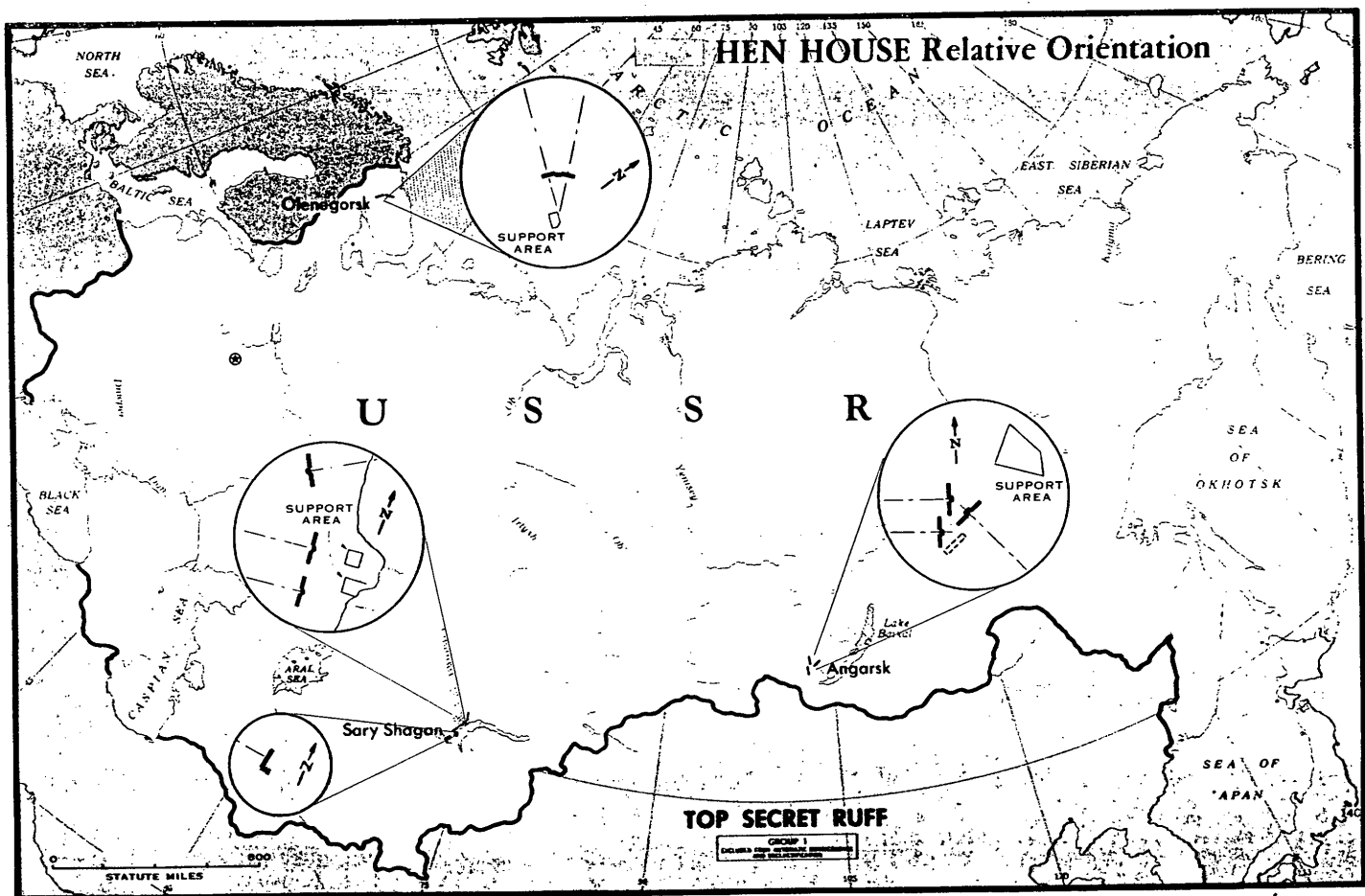
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Fig 9

Fig 3



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MEMORANDUM FOR: Dr. Wheelon

In handling the FULCRUM contracts to the extent authorized, I want to make two points abundantly clear. I wish you to follow them with great care in your contract procedures. They are:

1. There shall be no commitment, contractual or implied, that we are to proceed past the authorized R & D work on the film handling mechanism and the camera, which includes developmental mock-ups built in sufficient detail to answer or to disprove all questions or doubts concerning feasibility and, with respect to the spacecraft and re-entry vehicle, conceptual designs and sufficient detailed engineering to present accurate determinations as to weight of the total assembly and compatibility with the launcher.

2. You will employ engineers and contractors to the fullest possible extent, reserving as "in-house activities" responsibilities for supervision and guidance of the engineers and contractors. I wish you to avoid as far as possible unnecessarily building an in-house capability, restricting the expansion of your staff, if any is required, to such additions as are necessary to adequately supervise the work of the engineers and the contractors.

I believe this involves the following:

1. The employment of an architect-engineer or systems engineering contractor who will be responsible to develop plans, specifications, etc. for all phases of the project on an integrated basis and perform those other functions relating to the project as a whole as you direct. I stated on Tuesday that this contract would be let on a competitive basis but said in my personal experience, I have witnessed extreme difficulty in developing a plan of competition for an architect-contractor-engineer of this type.

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2. Competitive contract with two or more contractors for the film transport mechanism.

3. Contract for the camera, it being recognized that this contract probably cannot be competitive because of the ITEK input into the FULCRUM concept.

4. Competitive contract for the design of the spacecraft, it being assumed that the competitors would introduce first phase conceptual plans and from these the winning contractor could be chosen and authorized to proceed with the detailed engineering to the extent necessary and provide the information desired.

Once these several contracts have been let by you, the architect-engineer could, under your direction, assume a coordinating and supervising function which, I understand, is customary in this type of an undertaking.

I feel it would be delaying and also involve a "profit on top of a profit" if the architect-engineer was to be charged with the responsibility of letting the remaining contracts enumerated above.

These instructions are entirely consistent with the understanding reached at our meeting last Tuesday, although the detailed contracting procedures were not discussed in depth except that all present expressed the desire to introduce competition to the fullest extent.

Signed

JOHN A. McCONE
Director

JAM/mfb

Orig to Dr. Wheelon #1

3 lcc - DDCI

4 lcc - DCI chrono

5 lcc - DCI NRO file

6 lcc - DCI SecDef file

2 lcc - Secretary Vance, Dept. of Defense via Watch Office Courier on 8/14/64

4 lcc - ER

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28 August 1964

The Honorable Cyrus R. Vance
Deputy Secretary of Defense
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

At my meeting with you, Dr. Fubini, and Mr. Kiefer on 26 August to discuss NRO matters, an excerpt from Dr. McMillan's memorandum for the record of the meeting of 11 August was read to support the transfer of contracting responsibility for CORONA payload from Program B to Program A.

In checking my records here and in a subsequent conversation with Mr. McCone, we have no record of discussions regarding this proposed contractual change.

Mr. McCone dissented from the proposal that Aerospace be given a contract as Systems Manager in lieu of the current related contract with Lockheed. He then stated that if it was the majority view of the group that this Aerospace contract should be let, then Director, NRO could go ahead with it. There was no discussion of, nor did Mr. McCone agree to any other changes in, contracting procedures and particularly as to any change in the responsibility for payload contracting.

I send you this note just to keep the record straight in the event further discussion is needed in this regard.

Faithfully yours,

/s/

Marshall S. Carter
Lieutenant General, USA
Acting Director

EXECUTIVE REGISTRY
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